steam-launch service was now left to the mercy of private firms who conducted it in the most irregular and haphazard manner, often putting passengers to great difficulty and bitter disappointment. He suggested that Government might themselves start steam-boat service between Alleppey and Kottayam and thus afford some relief to the people of those localities.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (Nominated), Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, B. A., B. L., and Mr. K. Krishnan Pandalay, B. A., B. L., (Quilon) who had against their names the allied subject of deepening the water-way between Trivandrum and Alleppey with a view to render it fit for steam-launch navigation, said that as the matter had been already replied to, they had nothing to say on the subject newly.

Reply.—This is also a matter for private enterprise, and it will be seen that some firms are already engaged in plying steam boats. As already mentioned in reply to representation No. 128, the question of investing a large sum in the improvement of water-ways is already engaging the attention of Government.

138. Opening of harbours towards the development of coasting trade.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) suggested that with a view to bring the coasting trade of the State to a more flourishing and satisfactory condition, more harbours might be opened wherever possible and a customs-house attached to each of them.

Reply.—It is doubtful if the member has sufficiently realized the magnitude of his proposal and the important issues involved in it. It means prohibitive cost, not to speak of numerous other difficulties in the way. There is a harbour now at Alleppey as well as a port at Quilon. We cannot think of opening any more harbours now. As regards customs-houses, the question may be brought to the notice of the Excise Commissioner, who will then consider the same.

139. Improvement of the Sri Mulam Harbour.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (Eraniel) observed that the condition of the Sri Mulam Harbour in South Travancore left much room for improvement.

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Reply.—The needs of this port have been met to some extent and its further development will be attended to.

V. Revenue and finance.

140. Encouragement of local manufacture of salt.

Mr. Ponnaiah Nadar of Eraniel (*Nominated*) suggested that the local manufacture of salt in the allams of South Travancore might be encouraged by importing Bombay salt only when absolutely necessary and enhancing the present kudivaram of 3 chs. in old pans to 6¼ chs. as in the new ones at Colachel.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) said that a notice had been recently published by Government inviting persons to take up lands for the manufacture of salt. The conditions were a little hard, but some time should elapse before their defects could be pointed out.

Reply.—Government have already moved in the matter of increasing the manufacture of home salt. The notice inviting applications for the registry of lands for the manufacture of salt has been published in the Government Gazette and negotiations with some persons who came forward have been completed. The old rate depends upon tenure and agreement, but wherever improved methods are adopted at the expense of the ryots, the matter is will be favourably considered. Any suggestions which may be made by Mr. Swamy Iyengar as proposed will be thankfully received.

141. Arrangement for the sale of salt at a uniform reduced rate throughout the State and the opening of new salt bankshalls.

Mr. K. Appathura Iyer, B. A., B. L., (*Nedumangad*) represented that one effect of the recent abolition of Sirkar bankshalls was that the sale of salt was left to be carried on by private merchants and it was a matter for hardship that these persons caring only for profit dealt in salt of very inferior quality and demanded exorbitant price for the same. The price of salt varied directly with the mercantile enterprise of the locality, and the poor people, who in common with the rich could not avoid the use of salt, suffered heavily. He therefore suggested that some measures might be adopted by Government for preventing malpractices on the part of traders in this important matter and safeguarding the proper sale of salt of good quality at a uniform

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